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UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 000915

SIPDIS

FOR CA/VO

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [CVIS](#) [CMGT](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [DJ](#)

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI'S PROTOCOL CHIEF THREATENS SUSPENSION U.S.  
DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES

1. (SBU) Summary. On September 10, Djama Elmi Darar, Chief of Presidential Protocol, accompanied by the head of presidential security, expressed Charge d'Affaires his displeasure in not being able to procure immediate of the members of the security staff chosen to accompany President Gu Darar threatened to halt all issuance of any diplomatic visas to American duty-free imports, delay American diplomatic vehicle registration back gasoline coupons until the visa was issued. Post's coincidental clearance around the same time permitted issuance, but the issue may application instances. End summary.

2. (SBU) The Djiboutian Protocol Office has repeatedly delivered visa Embassy Djibouti with the expectation of issuance in an unreasonably. The last diplomatic delegation to the U.S. in May 2005, resulted in the being able to accompany the president because they were subject to SA bring their passports in time to receive visas when the SAOs cleared.

3. (U) Given the history of last minute applications, Embassy Djibouti requested, beginning in June, that the government's Protocol Office schedule for the UNGA delegation as early as possible. When the applications COB on Tuesday September 6, more than several were incomplete, lacked or had invalid passports. We managed to issue 19 out of 20 visas, but by the need for an SAO.

4. (U) On Saturday, September 10, a weekend, ConOff received word that the Chief wanted an immediate meeting regarding the case of the individual SAO. (Note: Although an SAO clearance had been accorded overnight, could not be immediately authorized for technical reasons, as Embassy not normally rebooted on weekends.)

5. (SBU) In the meeting, also attended by the Charge, Darar immediate visa that was still unissued. ConOff and Charge attempted to explain even for diplomatic visas, sometimes takes time, and every effort was expedite this particular application. Darar responded that if the visa within the next hour Djibouti would cease issuance of diplomatic visas refuse any American duty-free imports, delay American diplomatic vehicle and hold back coupons for purchase of fuel. Charge said that the threat passed along to Washington and offered Darar the chance to retract the he repeated it with emphasis, and agreed that the threat should be conveyed to Washington. During the course of the meeting, the parser was rebooted check and FR could clear in NIV. After Darar left, ConOff was able to print the visa in question. The passport was picked up from the embassy later.

6. (SBU) Comment: While the meeting itself had no impact on the timing issuance of the outstanding visa, the fact that it was issued shortly meeting will probably confirm Darar's belief that verbal pressure can regarding visas. We are uncertain if there is substance to Darar's threat diplomatic privileges to the Embassy as a general policy for the future and apprise Washington of developments accordingly. End Comment

RAGSDALE